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8 September 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

Subject: Censorship Planning

Reference: Memo of 27 January 1947 from OGD to ICPS,
subject as above

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1. Request your policy concerning censorship planning. Mr. [redacted] Chief of my Security Control Staff has explored the situation on a broad basis. He of course do not propose to establish a "censorship office" but feel that from an intelligence point of view you may soon be called upon by the National Security Council to assist and perhaps take the lead in preparing an inter-agency censorship plan for war or emergency.

2. The intelligence aspect of censorship planning consists in setting up a means of policy guidance to a separate office of censorship to be established by the President (with preliminary CIA coordination of general structural-operational plans) and of further setting [redacted] the [redacted] operation. Further, a Central Intelligence Agency cannot escape the responsibility for the urgent coordination of counter-intelligence requirements of all intelligence agencies with censorship in the event of emergency.

3. Mr. [redacted] office has from time to time been in touch with Mr. [redacted] and members of his late censorship staff. From these contacts, and from contacts with the War and Navy Departments, it is felt that at least CIA should establish, on an inter-agency basis, what might be called War Plan, "Censorship". I feel that we should first draw up our own tentative outline plan and then approach the intelligence agencies at the JAB for their ideas, requirements and proposals. A completed plan to be called, for example, "CIA and Inter-Agency Intelligence Requirements, for the Office of Censorship". This plan could then be turned over to the NSC with the recommendation that the plan be implemented by it and that the intelligence agencies concerned would be prepared to implement their roles therein.

4. Within the Security Control Staff of this office there are vacancies for a Plans Officer and an Assistant Plans Officer whose services could be utilized to initiate preliminary coordinated censorship planning until such time as an adequate staff for the purpose (included in 1949 budget estimates) could be provided.

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5. I feel that this matter calls for priority attention if the CIA would avoid unfavorable criticism in the event of emergency or war for not having fulfilled one of its inherent functions.

SHEPHERD EDWARDS
Colonel, FA
Executive for Inspection and Security

SE/CN
cc: Executive Registry ← (not sent)
Central Records (x)

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